

Marvine Colliery, Oil House
W side of Boulevard Ave.,
between E Parker St. and I Rt. 380
Scranton
Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-183-E

HAER
PA
35-SCRAN,
6E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
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35-SCRA
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Marvine Colliery, Oil House

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Location: Located in an east central position on the Marvine Colliery East Site, approximately 150 feet southeast of Boiler House No. 2 between the west side of Boulevard Avenue and the east bank of the Lackawanna River, between East Parker Street on the south and Interstate Route 380 on the north
Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

UTM: Z18 E446118 N4588007

Quad: Scranton

Dates of Construction: Circa 1898

Present Owner: Louis and Dominick DeNaples
F & L Realty

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: None

Significance: Marvine Colliery is important to local history for its relationship to the development of the Anthracite Mining Industry in northeast Pennsylvania, "The Anthracite Capital of the World" 1890-1930. The Oil House was important to the operations of the Marvine Colliery as a support structure. Its architecture is of the same style as Boiler House No. 2.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in April 1990, in accordance with a resolution by the board of commissioners of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, as a mitigative measure prior to partial demolition of the Marvine Colliery to make way for construction of the Lackawanna County Recycling Center on the site.

Dorothy Allen Silva
Architectural Historian
1288 Layton Road
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania 18411

LOCATION

The Oil House is located on the east central portion of Marvine Colliery No. 2, approximately 150 feet southeast of Boiler House No. 2 and directly north of the Shed area.

HISTORY OF EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS

The Marvine Colliery Oil House dates from approximately the same period as does Boiler House No. 2 (see Boiler House, HAER No. PA-183-A, for research documentation on determination of date). This structure is identified in the 1956 Sanborn map as an oil house.

The Hudson Coal Company's 1932 publication makes scant reference to an oil house, stating only that such structures existed at their collieries for the purpose of maintaining reserves of "ordinary items of supplies consumed daily, including ... lubricating oil."

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHITECTURE AND STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

The oil house is rectangular in shape. Its foundation consists of a concrete slab, 1-foot-thick, measuring 41 feet (north-south) by 28 feet (east-west) with no basement story. The structure is divided into two distinct sections. The north section measures 21 feet 5 inches (north-south) and is constructed of brick solid wall laid in English bond, with five stretcher rows per header course. The masonry is in relatively good condition.

A standard-size doorway is centrally situated in the west facade, with one steel fixed frame 12-pane rectangular window on either side. The north and east facades each contain two square steel frame, 20-pane windows, the central 6 panes of which can be opened inward hopper-style. Granite lintels and sills frame each window, and the doorway also has granite lintel. Brickwork Queens closers and Kings closers are at the sides. All window panes have been broken. The metal door has been removed and lies on the ground west of the structure.

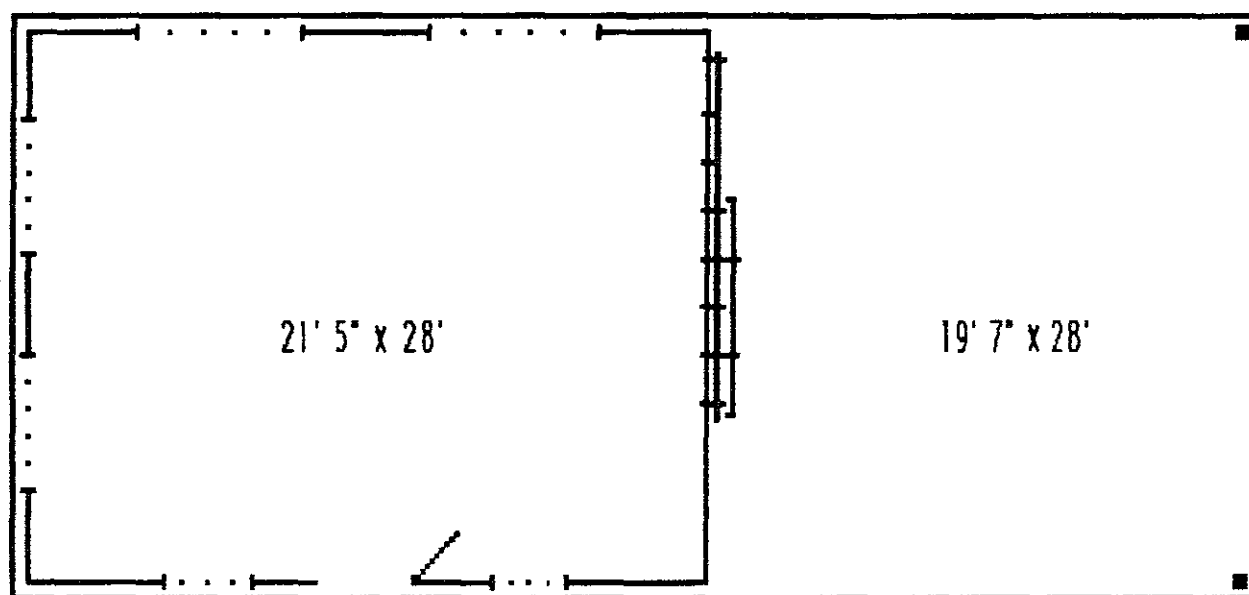
A thick steel-plate door is centrally located in the south facade. This door can be opened only from the south section of the structure, by means of a hinged steel level attached across the door at one end and mounted to the brickwork above the door, and extending to the east end of the south facade by steel large bolts which pass through the brick and are secured by metal plates on the north side of the wall.

The interior of the north section contains a steel shelving unit, turned on its side, and an empty oil drum. One metal shaded pendant electrical fixture is suspended from the roof at the north and south ends. The floor is covered by a great deal of rubble, including domestic trash, as well as a large amount of asbestos (curved sections, indicating that it had been used as piping insulation. However, this structure contains no pipes or openings where pipes would have been and, therefore, it appears that the asbestos had been dumped here at some time).

The south section of the structure is a corrugated metal pavilion, open on three sides, measuring 19 feet 7 inches (north-south). Structural support consists of 8x2-inch "I" beams: one vertical each at the southeast and southwest corners, one horizontal 7 feet from the floor.

The north and south portions of the structure share a common corrugated metal gable roof. The roofing structural system consists of 8x2-inch "I" beams used as purlins. The corrugated metal roofing surface is attached to the purlins by galvanized metal straps 1 foot 10 inches long by 3/4-inch wide. The straps are bolted to the corrugated metal with iron bolts and nuts.

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PLAN OF OIL HOUSE